

## **QATAR FOUNDATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT HOSTS BRAINSTORMING SESSION FOR LOCAL ARAB EXPATRIATE SCIENTISTS**

*Meeting Served As A Platform To Discuss New Strategy*

**Doha, Qatar, 18 January 2016:** Qatar Foundation Research & Development (QF R&D) recently hosted a brainstorming session for local members of the Arab Expatriate Scientists (AES) Network. Over 30 local scientists, from various entities in Qatar, attended the session, which served as a platform to discuss and synthesise a new vision and goals.

The AES Network was launched in 2006, under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF). The Network endeavours to attract Arab scientists back to the region, and supports the QF R&D vision of positioning Qatar as a leading centre of research and development excellence and innovation.

Specially designed to explore a fresh new strategy for the Network over the coming years, a number of thematic discussions took place during the session. Among the goals discussed, the group identified innovation and entrepreneurship, human capacity building, applied R&D, and social outreach as some of the key planning areas to focus on for future growth.

Dr Hamad Al-Ibrahim, Executive Vice President of Research and Development at QF, chaired the meeting. Speaking on behalf of the AES Network, he commented: “The implementation of the AES Network has been successful through various mechanisms, including the formation of Qatar research institutes and centres in-line with the Qatar National Research Strategy. However, we still have significant progress to make in supporting the goals of the Qatar National Vision 2030 and the relocation of Arab expatriates to Qatar in support of human capacity development.”

In addition to the brainstorming session, AES members from outside Qatar will be invited to take part in the upcoming Qatar Foundation Annual Research Conference, which is being held from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016, to provide their input on a new strategy. Among the invitees are scientists who have active collaborations with local scientists through research funded by the Qatar National Research Fund, a member of QF R&D.

### **Image Captions**

**Image 1:** A brainstorming session held in Doha for local members of the Arab Expatriate Scientists (AES) Network, organised by Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D).



**Image 2:** Dr Hamad Al-Ibrahim, Executive Vice President of Research and Development at Qatar Foundation, during the recent brainstorming session.

**Image 3:** Dr Hamad Al-Ibrahim, Executive Vice President of Research and Development at Qatar Foundation, speaks to the participants at the brainstorming session.

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### **About Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D)**

Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D) is charged with the Qatar National Research Strategy, dedicated to making Qatar a leading center for research and development excellence and innovation. QF R&D is home to Qatar National Research Fund, a leading scientific research funding organization, Qatar Science & Technology Park, an international hub for technology innovation and commercialization

### **Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential**

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF) is a private, non-profit organisation that is supporting Qatar on its journey from carbon economy to knowledge economy by unlocking human potential, for the benefit of not only Qatar, but the world. QF was co-founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Qatar Foundation's Chairperson. QF's work encompasses education, research and community development. World-class universities are brought to Qatar to help create an education sector in which young people can develop the attitudes and skills required for a knowledge economy. At the same time, QF builds Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by developing and commercialising solutions through key sciences. The Foundation also works to foster a progressive society while enhancing cultural life, protecting Qatar's heritage and addressing immediate social needs in the community.

For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>